



California

Education and the Environment Initiative



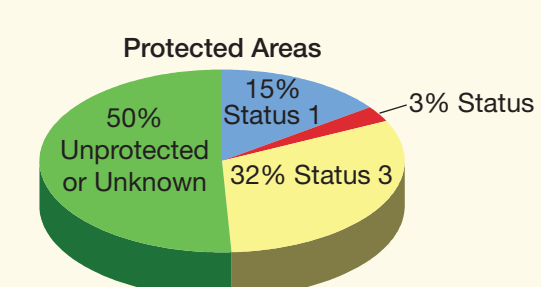
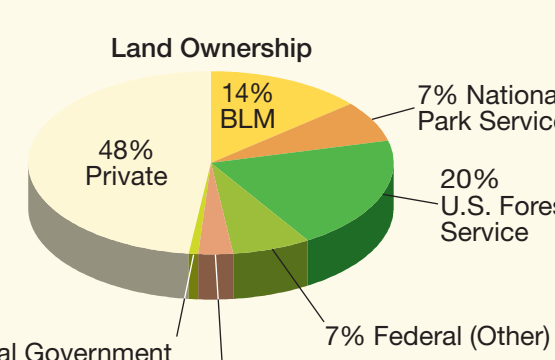
Who Owns California

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Management Status of California's Protected Areas

Protecting California Lands

Many agencies and individuals are working to insure the conservation of California's terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Federal, state, county, and local governments have established parks, reserves, and marine sanctuaries. Private organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwoods League, and many landowners have set aside areas to conserve important habitats. These areas serve to protect California's rich biological diversity and provide recreation for people. Yosemite National Park was originally established in 1864 as California's first state park. In 1972, a new law established the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This law recognized the importance of ocean and coastal ecosystems. Thirteen National Marine Sanctuaries and a Marine National Monument protect these underwater treasures. The sanctuaries promote conservation, but allow commercial and recreational uses. There are four National Marine Sanctuaries off the coast of California.



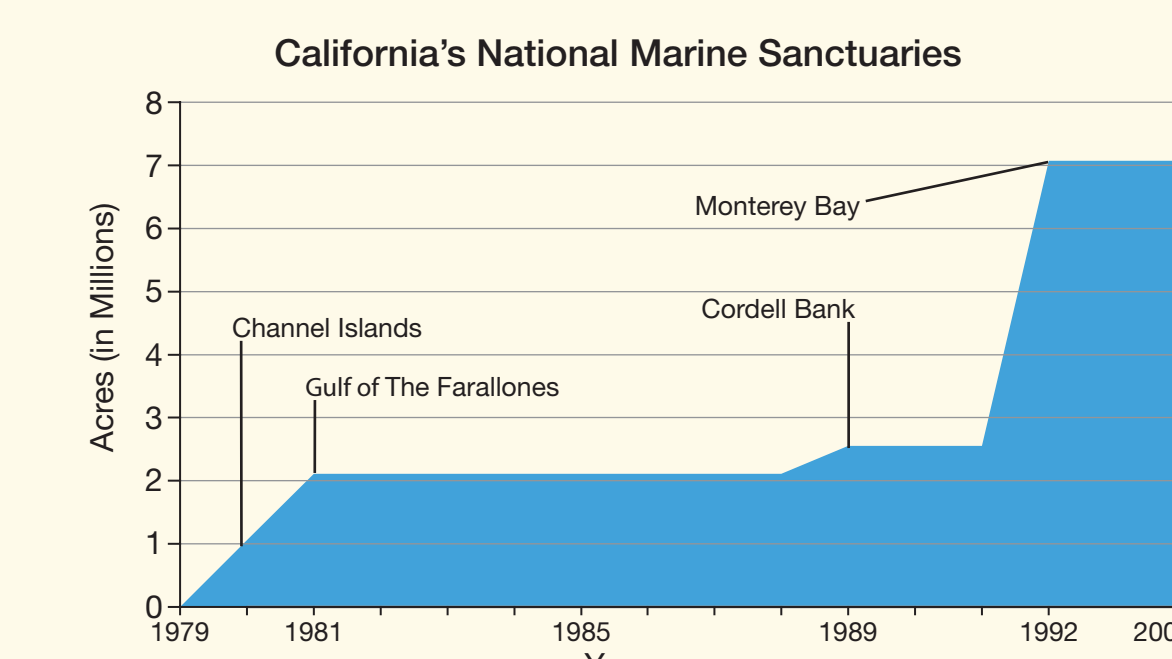
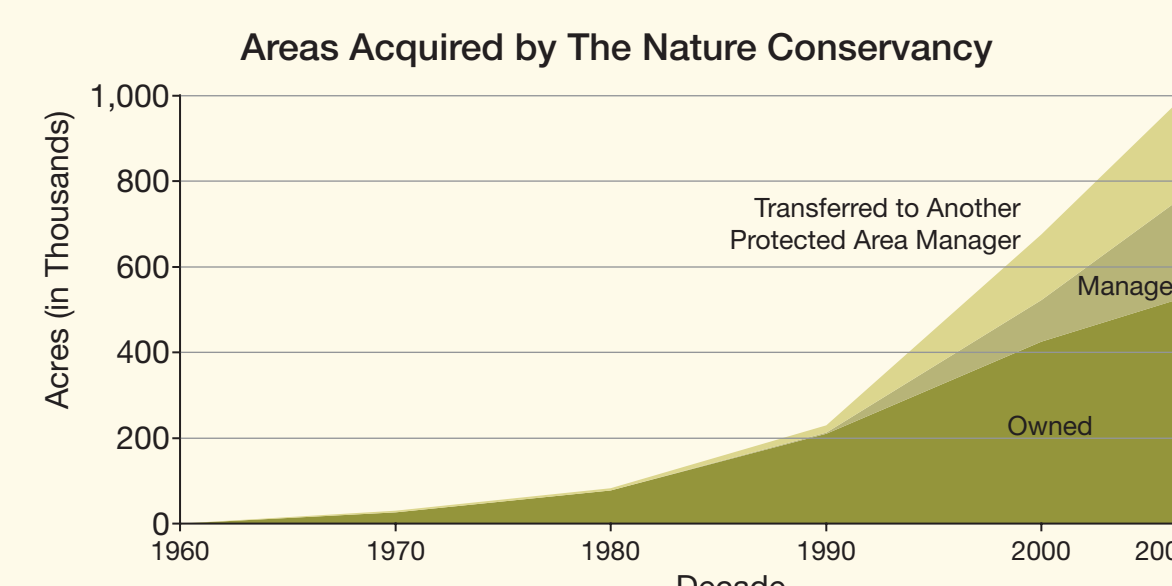
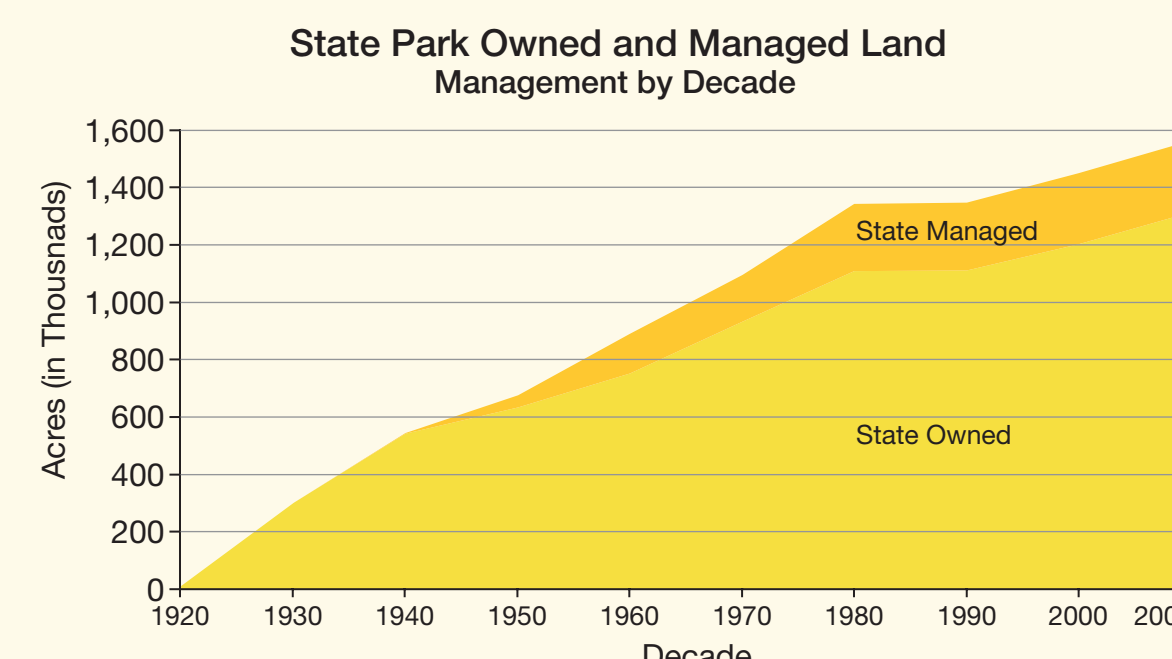
Protected Area Categories

Status 1—Permanently Protected: areas of natural habitat that are permanently protected with management plans that keep them in a natural condition.

Status 2—Partially Protected: areas of natural habitat that are permanently protected with management plans that keep them in a mostly natural condition.

Status 3—Partially Protected Areas with Extractive Uses: areas of mainly natural habitat that is permanently protected but allows some extractive uses.

Unprotected or Unknown: Private or other lands that do not protect natural habitat from conversion to human uses.



Federal Lands

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- National Marine Sanctuary
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Forest Service
- Wilderness Area
- Other Federal Land

State and County Lands

- California Fish and Game
- California State Parks
- Local/County/Regional Land
- Other State Land

Non-Government Agencies

- Conservancy/Land Trust
- Private Lands Managed for Public Purpose
- Other Private Land

Urban

- Urban

History of our Public Lands



1870

1890 Sequoia becomes nation's second National Park.

1891 Forest Reserve Law allows the President to reserve public lands containing timber.

1902 California Redwood Park Commission protects redwood groves with the acquisition of 25,000 acres in Big Basin for a public park.

1916 National Park Service is created to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein."

1920 Bureau of Reclamation created to protect water sheds on public lands and "reclaim" and lands in the west through irrigation and flood control.

1934 Taylor Grazing Act lessens overgrazing on public lands by requiring farmers and ranchers to get grazing permits.

1940 Fish and Wildlife Service is formed, "to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats."

1946 Bureau of Land Management is created to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands.

1960 Wilderness Act is established for wilderness areas within the USDA Forest, National Park, and Fish and Wildlife Service's roadless lands.

1973 Endangered Species Act identifies endangered and threatened species.

1976-1979 California Coastal Plan protects Elkhorn Slough through partnership with NOAA and the California Department of Fish and Game.

1994 California Desert Protection Act creates two new National Parks—Death Valley and Joshua Tree—and one National Preserve—the Mojave, protecting some 6 million acres of land.

2003-2007 Protection of the California Coast by the State of California and the California Fish and Game Commission establishes "no take" and "limited take" marine reserves and conservation areas off the California coast.

1804-1806 Lewis and Clark explore the western United States.

1812 General Land Office is created to manage all federal lands.

1864 California's first State Park—Yosemite.

1890 John Muir and other supporters form the Sierra Club, "to make the mountains glad," and to protect the American wilderness.

1900 USDA Forest Service is created to sustain the healthy diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands.

1927 State Park Commission established to manage parks and lands acquisition of new park lands.

1930 Central Valley Project is authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the nation's largest Reclamation project.

1944 Smoky Bear is created for a campaign to prevent forest fires.

1966 National Historic Preservation Act establishes the National Register of Historic Places.

1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and National Trails System Act protect free-flowing rivers from dam construction and streamside development, and preserves a system of scenic, historic, and recreational trails.

1972 National Marine Sanctuary Program is established—four sanctuaries in California have since been designated.

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